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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

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Camp Kayrkan and Neighboring Coal Mines

1. Camp Kayrkan (see Attachment L, point 19) was located 20 km east of Dudinka. 25X1

The camp held some 3500 political prisoners who were employed in the local coal mines (points 20a, 20b, and 20c). Many nationalities were represented among the prisoners Chinese Czechs, Poles, Hungarians, Ukrainians Each prisoner was identified by a number sewed on his cap and back.

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2. the mines in the Kayrkan area 25X1

Mine No. 18 and 19 (points 20a and 20c) were started about 1945 and operations in Mine No. 6 (point 20b) were suspended in 1946 or 1947 because of the presence of too much gas. Mine No. 18 was the most productive. 25X1

3. Mines Nos. 18 and 19 were dug horizontally into the mountain side for about three or four km. Both mines were joined at the farther end where the tunnels entered a large pit containing a sorting machine. In 1948, each mine was equipped with a conveyor belt. Coal was loaded onto the belt by hand and taken to the sorting machine from which it dropped into mine cars. The cars were pulled to the entrance of the mines by an electrically-operated windlass, and the ore was then dumped into freight cars. 25X1

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4. Compressed air drills and dynamite were used to loosen the coal. Each mine worked three eight-hour shifts per day the year around. Each shift was composed of about 100 miners. In 1947, production per shift per mine was about 500 tons or one or two freight car loads per day (sic). After the conveyor belts were installed, production increased to seven or eight freight cars per day. In 1952, a mechanical digger and loader was installed in one of the mines. No information was available on how this machine affected coal production. The mine bulletin board showed which mine produced more coal, but it gave no figures. The freight cars had six wheels, three on each side (sic).

Quarry near Camp Kolerkon

5. Camp Kolerkon was a disciplinary camp situated east of the coal mines (point 18). There was no settlement near the camp. Prisoners were employed in cutting building stone (kirpichnyy kamen) out of the mountain. The stone was cut in sections about 50 x 40 x 20 cm. Prisoners worked in 12-hour shifts. The norm for 24 hours was 50 slabs. These were loaded on cars of the narrow-gauge railroad and sent to Norilsk. The spur of the line came into the camp, crossing the broad-gauge line. The camp had 4,500 inmates of every nationality. A small hospital of some 50 beds was a part of the camp.

Copper Plant and Camp No. 4 near Norilsk

6. There was a copper plant (mednyy zavod or med-zavod) about four or five km north of Norilsk. The plant was managed by free Russians but operated by prisoners from Camp No. 4 (point 5). This camp held approximately 12,500 prisoners. The plant was not designated by any number. It was served by the broad-gauge railroad. It had two tall smoke stacks about 150 meters high and three or five meters at the base. The plant was run by Grazhdanskiy (fnu).

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7. Prisoners entered the plant in brigades of about 30 men. The plant was encircled by a wire fence, four meters high, made of about ten strands of barbed wire. Watch-towers were located along the fence. At night, the fence area was lit up by electric arc lamps, and dogs were tied to running wires every 50 or 100 meters. About 1.5 km inside the wire encirclement, there was a seven or eight-meter-high brick wall which also surrounded the plant. Between these two barriers were small depots of machinery and some barracks or offices.
8. Camp No. 4 consisted of eight two-story concrete barracks. Seven of the barracks had room for about 1,500 prisoners each. Building No. 8 was a hospital. It had 200 beds and was headed by a woman doctor who was assisted by male prisoners.
9. Each camp in the Norilsk area was guarded by a detachment of some 300 soldiers (samokhraniye). The officers wore blue caps with a red band and with or without a red piping around the top. Camps in which source was interned were mostly under the MVD. The only difference between officers and enlisted men's uniforms were the stripes and colors of the shoulderboards.

Steel Plant South of Norilsk

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10. There was a plant south of Norilsk which looked like the copper plant, but which was called the BOF and [redacted] was a steel plant.

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The plant was situated at the foot of Shmidt Mountain and was connected with both the narrow and broad-railroad lines. About two km from the plant, there was a spur on the narrow-gauge line which entered a tunnel, passed through the Shmidt Mountain to a new coal mine which was opened in 1953. The plant was said to receive coal from this mine as well as the coal mines at Kayrkan. Kayrkan coal was delivered by the broad-gauge line. The plant worked the copper-iron ores from the Medvezhka Mines nearby.

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Medvezhka Iron and Copper Mines

11. These were open-pit mines on the Shmidt Mountain. They were worked by prisoners from Camp No. 1, which was situated 1.5 km from each of the mines. The mines did not have a number designation.

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12. Two devices were used to obtain the ore. The first device was a winch with two buckets (badeyka) attached to it. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] A total of three men were employed on this device. The first was a driller; the other two worked the winch. The driller made a hole with a compressed air drill, inserted ammonal, and when all the other borers were ready, the explosive was set off at one time. One man at the bottom of the pit filled the buckets with ore; which were pulled up by the man at the top and the ore dumped beside the winch. Here, the ore was picked up by an excavator and loaded into small mining cars. These cars went directly to the BOF Steel Plant. The drillers' norm was 1 to 1.5 m per 12-hour shift. The pit (shurf) was 1.5 meters wide and went down about 20 m. The man at the top had to pull up 80 buckets per shift. These buckets were about 60 x 50 cm. The mine in which source worked had 120 pits, of which 100 were worked in the manner described. 25X1
13. The second device was a digging or boring machine which was used in the remaining 20 pits. These machines made a hole about 60 cm wide and also went down 20 m. It needed four men to operate it. As the hole was dug, water was added to facilitate the operation. When the hole was ready, ammonal was dropped into it and exploded. The ore was loaded by excavators on to dumping cars (dumkars), each holding about 40 tons. These cars were made in Czechoslovakia; they had springs at both ends and a steam-operated lifting device for dumping the ore at the factory. Here the ore was sorted by machine and the stone dumped into a quarry.
14. [redacted] 25X1
- Railroads
15. For a sketch of the railroad system in the Dudinka-Norilsk area see Attachment . The broad-gauge line between Kayrkan and Norilsk was used to ship coal to Med-zavod and BOF. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] the line went as far as Igarka and that a bridge over the Yenisey River was to be completed before 1954. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
- Norilsk
16. The population of this city was approximately 500,000. In the Norilsk area, there were estimated to be about 1.5 million prisoners. No food was produced in Norilsk. All supplies came through Krasnoyarsk and were sent down the Yenisey River during the summer months. During this period, two or three steamers arrived daily in Dudinka where large storage depots were available south of the town.
17. In Norilsk, the water supply came from a lake southwest of the city. In winter, a hole was made in the ice to make it possible to pump water. The water pipes were covered with moss (mokh) which helped to prevent them from freezing. At times, steam was used to melt the ice in the pipes.
18. In spite of cotton padded jackets, prisoners suffered a great deal from the cold. [redacted] a least 200 a year died in each camp. Camp No. 5 was reserved mostly for invalids, people without hands and legs. Many prisoners committed self-mutilations until 1953. They would deliberately cut off their hands or put a foot under a moving railroad car. Most of these people were Ukrainians [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1

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Strike in Norilsk

19. On 1 May 1953, some of the prisoners at Norilsk went on strike. Some 50,000 participated, including prisoners in Camps Nos. 4,5,6; Camp Medvezhka (point 11); and Camp Kayrkan (point 19). The convicts (katorzhanin) struck first and stayed out for six weeks; political prisoners went back to work after 18 days. During the strike, source was in Camp Medvezhka, where the prisoners simply stayed in their barracks.
20. A general from Moscow, a deputy of Beriia, came to settle the strike. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] his name was Semenov (fnu). The general promised the following 25X1 reforms:
- a. Numbers would be removed from clothing of political prisoners.
 - b. Each prisoner would be allowed two letters per month instead of two letters per year.
 - c. All of the wages earned by a prisoner would be turned over to him.
 - d. The work shift would be reduced from 12 to 9 hours.
 - e. A time discount (zaschet) would be given for each month of work.
21. The strike led to several incidents. In Camp No. 5, some 75 prisoners were shot and 50 wounded. In Camp Medvezhka, the hospital was set on fire. In every camp, prisoners put up banners with the peace slogan "Mir za mir ili smert"-- Give us either peace or death.

Enclosure: Layout sketch of the Dudinka and Norilsk areas.

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